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Miss Cherokee

LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

APPLICATION



G W Y D B F
CHEROKEE NATION[®]
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
918-453-5000 • www.cherokee.org

Office of the Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief

Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition 2026-27

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for requesting an application packet for the 2026-27 Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition. This packet contains a description of the Contestant Eligibility and Qualifications; a list of items that need to be submitted with the application; and the Miss Cherokee 2026-27 Application. The application and requested items must **be received by the DEADLINE of no later than 6 pm, Wednesday, July 1, 2026, in hand. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.**

We will accept hand carried applications Wednesday, July 1, 2026, between 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the W.W. Keeler Cherokee Nation Complex, Tahlequah. However, early completed applications can be submitted prior to the deadline of July 1.

The applicants will receive notification that they are an official candidate for the 2026-27 Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition. The official contestants will be required to attend a mandatory orientation for an overview of the activities that will be occurring during the competition, on Saturday, August 1, 2026. Only those who meet the criteria as a contestant will be notified of the time and place of the orientation. Eligible contestants will be required to attend mandatory rehearsals and events August 20-22. The competition is on Saturday, August 22. Please follow this link for information pertaining to Miss Cherokee, <https://www.cherokee.org/all-services/education-services/youth-leadership/miss-cherokee/>.

Thank you for expressing interest in serving the Cherokee Nation. The Miss Cherokee Committee is looking forward to meeting and working with you. If you have any questions, please call (918) 453-5000 Lisa Trice Turtle, ext. 4991 or miss-cherokee@cherokee.org.

Sincerely,

The 2026-27 Miss Cherokee Committee

Enclosures

**2026-27 MISS CHEROKEE LEADERSHIP COMPETITION
CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Be between 18 and 22 years of age by August 21, 2026.
2. Be a registered Cherokee Nation tribal citizen.
3. Reside within the Cherokee Nation reservation.
4. Be a high school graduate or have successfully completed a GED testing program for high school equivalency.
5. Must not have been married or have ever cohabited.
6. Must not have been pregnant or given birth.
7. Must not have previously served as Miss Cherokee.
8. Must never have been convicted of any crime nor have any criminal charges pending.
9. Must be physically able to fulfill the duties of the position. Official appearances begin Saturday, August 22, 2026, immediately following the crowning and contract signing.
10. Contestants will be judged on Cherokee language usage during their introduction and cultural presentation.
11. Appearances are frequently outdoors which could expose her to weather conditions of extreme cold (below 32 degrees) and extreme heat (above 100 degrees) and she may not be protected from weather conditions. There may be sufficient noise to cause her to shout in order to be heard above the noise level. Hazards she would be exposed to include moving vehicles and high places such as stages. Her appearances will have physical demands that require sitting, nearly continuous hearing and listening, talking, standing, and will often be walking, bending, stooping, climbing stairs, kneeling/squatting, reaching overhead, and sometimes lifting up to 50 pounds.
12. Contestants must comply with all applicable health and safety requirements in effect, including any measures implemented during a public health emergency. This includes, but is not limited to, federal, state, and local guidance, as well as Cherokee Nation health and safety protocols. When guidance differs, Cherokee Nation requirements will serve as the final authority. All requirements are subject to change based on evolving conditions and the most current public health information.

CONTESTANTS MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

1. A completed Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition 2026-27 Application form.
2. A copy of her Cherokee Nation Tribal Citizenship (blue) card.
3. Submit your most recent official transcript or GED scores, from your High School, College, University or Higher Education Institution.
4. A copy of your Fall 2026 Enrollment of your higher education institution
5. A copy of a utility bill for proof of address, must be in applicant's name or parent(s)/legal guardian's name.
6. One (1) 4" x 6" color photograph.
7. Three (3) letters of recommendation (non-family).

The complete application and supporting documents must be received by the DEADLINE of no later than 6 pm, Wednesday, July 1, 2026. We will accept hand carried applications Wednesday, July 1, 2026, between 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the W.W. Keeler Cherokee Nation Complex, Tahlequah. Hand carried or mailed applications will be accepted prior to the deadline. **Mailed applications should be mailed to the following address and (MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE OF 5 PM (Close of Business if mailed), WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026). Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Any application received via mail or hand delivered after the deadline will not be accepted.**

**Cherokee Nation
Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition
Attn: Londa Cox
P. O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465**

FAXED OR EMAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

ALL THE ITEMS/DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE MISS CHEROKEE COMMITTEE.

**MISS CHEROKEE LEADERSHIP COMPETITION
2026-2027 APPLICATION**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Physical Address: _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ SSN: _____

Email: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Tribal Enrollment Number: _____ Age (on 8/21/26): _____

Parents or Legal Guardian: _____

Address: _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Cell: _____

Are you enrolled in a higher education program (college, vocational, certification)? _____

If yes, where? _____ Classification: _____

Chosen Field of Study: _____

If employed, where? _____

List any pageant(s) you have entered: _____

Answer the following questions. If additional space is needed, please list on a separate paper that is same size and color.

1-List Cherokee cultural activities that you participate in and cultural skills you can demonstrate:

2-How do you serve your community? _____

3-Provide a list /history of your leadership skills (i.e., honors, awards, club membership, etc.).



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CHEROKEE NATION®

Cherokee Nation Media Release Form

Miss Cherokee

Event Name

I hereby allow the Cherokee Nation or its entities to use my image for non-commercial purposes, including publication and release to media outlets and web sites. I release, discharge, and agree to save the Cherokee Nation and its entities from any liability for non-commercial use of my image.

I have read this authorization and release prior to its execution. I have not been induced, other than by the consideration received, to execute the same by any representation or statement made by the Cherokee Nation.

Participants Name (print)

Phone

Address

State

Zip

Participants Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

**2026-27 MISS CHEROKEE LEADERSHIP COMPETITION
CULTURAL PRESENTATION
(Three (3) Minute Time Limit)**

Name: _____

Describe your cultural presentation: _____

List any props you will be using: _____

Once you are notified you are an official contestant for the Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition, you are required to submit a cultural presentation form that is your final idea and submitted by Saturday, August 1, 2026. Once submitted you will not be allowed to make changes to your cultural presentation.

If you are going to use music, please bring it to the first rehearsal.

Accompaniment by another person will not be allowed for the Cultural Presentation. The AV equipment at the church does not have remote capability to change slides so any slides used for presentation must be set as a timed slideshow by the contestant.

The Cultural Presentation information form is **due Saturday, August 1, 2026, by 9:00 am.**

**2026-27 MISS CHEROKEE LEADERSHIP COMPETITION
CONTESTANT PLATFORM GUIDELINES
(Three (3) Minute Time Limit)**

Once you are notified you are an official contestant for the Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition, you are required to select a platform, that supports the Cherokee Nation Mission Statement, that you will spend the year advocating if selected as Miss Cherokee.

Cherokee Nation Mission Statement: The Cherokee Nation is committed to protecting our inherent sovereignty, preserving and promoting Cherokee culture, language and values, and improving the quality of life for the next seven generations of the Cherokee citizens.

Your personal connection to the platform should be understood. You may be asked why you selected the platform from various people. Select an issue that reflects who you are or what you've accomplished and where your heart lies. It should be clear that you have researched, thought about and understood the platform and its impact on others.

Numerous requests are received for Miss Cherokee to present her platform when she appears before groups/organizations, etc.

Some of the platforms of past Miss Cherokee contestants:

- Environmental Issues
- Indian Child Welfare
- Higher Education
- Diabetes Awareness
- Culture
- Language

The written platform is **due Saturday, August 1, 2026, by 9:00 am**, via 1- hard copy and also send an electronic file via email to lisa-trice-turtle@cherokee.org.

The composition of the platform must be as follows:

Two (2)-pages in length, typed, double spaced, in 12-point font. Instead of giving the paper a title, put the topic and your name on the top on each page.